

• C o u n t e r p o i s e •

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLVIII

January 2008

Number 1



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting:

January 10, 2007 7:00 pm

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All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net or by post
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021

The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

Paul K6PKS
Present
ARCEC
Funds
For
VIP CAL Fire
\$2500.00



ARCEC gets fund for CAL Fire.
Now it's off to the Candy Store.

2008 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	KO4QT	Steve Weed	733-2320
Secretary	N6ERD	Dan Severance	449-8526
Treasurer	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439

2008 Board of Directors

Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
Membership	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Net Manager	KG6TDP	Mike Oberbauer	444-9090
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
	KF6KE	Richard West	462-2771

2008 Standing Committees

Bylaws	OPEN		
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Elmer	WA6L	John Graf	368-7413
EOC H2O District	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Estate Sales	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	KO4QT	Steve Weed	733-2320
Health & Welfare	OPEN	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Historian	OPEN		
Photographer	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	
Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Prizes	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
SANDARC Delegate	K5WFW	Len Fulbright	258-1322
Swap Meet	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Technical	W6RHV	Bob Boehme	448-4728
Ticket Lady	KI6EEK	Lisie Rios	
WA6BGS Trustee	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
WAMO	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Welcome	KI6JUD	Linda Weed	971-1535
Social Chair	KI6JUD	Linda Weed	971-1535

Staff and Writers

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
KO4QT	Steve	Vice President
N6OPH	Mike	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
AE6CQ	Michael	WAMO
W5COM	Tom & Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
WA6L	John	Down Below in EC
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

From The President

Paul KC6QLS



With the start of the New Year, I would like to welcome the three new Executive Board members to the Board, Steve Weed, Dan Severance, and Richard West. I think they will bring some new ideas and help keep the club on the right track.

This year we will install the new radios at Cal Fire. Again, I would like to say thanks to Paul K6PKS and his SURF Group "San Diego Ultra Running Friends." You can visit their website <http://www.movinshoes.com/surf/>, also visit <http://members.cox.net/sandiego100>.

73

Paul KC6QLS

AI60

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Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting
13 December 2007



The general membership meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by the club President Paul Rios, KC6QLS at 1900hrs. A quorum was present.

After the pledge the club President introduced Paul K6PKS who presented to the ARCEC and Roxanne Provaznik a check for \$2,500.00 for the ARCEC to purchase equipment for CAL FIRE's VIP Red Flag Patrol Program. This equipment will be on permanent loan to CAL FIRE at the Monte Vista Station.

New members were welcomed into the club.

SECRETARY'S report was approved as published in the *Counterpoise*.

TREASURER'S report was read by Mike, N6OPH. It was approved as read and filed for audit.

PRESIDENT Rios gave Vice President Ed AI6O and Secretary Mike N6OPH each a gift for their past two years of service. A third item was put up for the Silent Auction. The President announced that the main prize at the Christmas party is a \$250.00 gift certificate from HRO along with the usual \$25.00 Gift Certificates.

Paul explained the rules for the elections and a Elections Committee. Only members would be eligible to vote for Ham of the Year and the election of officers. Dan Hines would not be able to serve a full year term on the Board of Directors, so he asked to be removed from the ballot.

ELECTION RESULTS are as follows: Paul Rios, KC6QLS President; Steve Weed, KO4TQ Vice President; Dan Severance, N6ERD Secretary; Michael "Stogie" Panger, KG6JCW Treasurer.

Elected to the Board of Directors are: Ann, KC6TBG; Gordon Shackelford AE6QW; Larry Plummer, AE6AV; Mike Oberbauer, KG6TDP; Richard West, KF6KE and Rich Beisigl, N6NKJ.

NET MANAGER Mike indicated that there were 18 check-ins and appreciates the participation in the club nets.

MOTHER GOOSE PARADE report was given by Paul, KC6QLS. The parade was over budget by \$342. 59 due to the purchase of three vinyl banners, which the club will use for future

events. The Board and general membership approved reimbursing Paul for this out of pocket expense. The parade was a great success!

VICE PRESIDENT Felter, AI6O thanked the membership for the privilege of serving as VP.

MEMBERSHIP stands at 267 and 43 present at this evenings meeting.

HEALTH & WELFARE report was given by Paul, KC6QLS. He noted the passing of John, KF6XY. The Christmas Dinner will be on 18 December at the Home Towne Buffet in El Cajon. The dinner starts at 1800hrs.

There being no further business before the general membership, the meeting was adjourned at 2015hrs.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Paul Maston, N6OPH
Secretary
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon



Jokes

I heard you have a cat that can say her own name.

Yes. Meow.

Lisie KI6EEK

From The Vice President KO4QT Steve



I'd like to start off by saying thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Vice President. I'm looking forward to working with Paul and the Board to keep the Club on a positive path.

Over the next few weeks, I'll be putting together a list of speakers for our Club meetings. I'll need your help to do this. If you have a desire in sharing your specialty or interests, or know someone who'd like to speak with the Club in a presentation at a meeting, please email me at: KO4QT@hotmail.com Speakers do not have to be members of the Club but their topic should be amateur radio or service related.

We have many Club activities scheduled for 2008 and as always, we'll be asking for volunteers. I'm planning on being at all of these events and hope to see you there too.

A note of congratulations is due to Joe (K6UMA) and Mary McCormick for a whopping 65 years of marriage on Christmas Eve.

As Larry the Cable Guy says: "Git'R Done"

Steve KO4QT



WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Ed Felter	AI6O	WAMO/D

WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights
8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:
8:00 pm

Nets held on club repeaters

WA6BGS Repeaters

RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.

New WAMO/D Net

ARCEC, San Diego Digital VHF Net

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Day: Thurs. "Except 2nd Thurs. of the month"

Mode: PSK31

Frequency: 50.290 MHz. and a QSY to 144.144 MHz

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken. Hope to see you on the waterfall!

WAMO means Worked All Members Only. The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.


Calendar of Events January 2008

Jan.	3:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
Jan.	5:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Jan.	5:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Jan.	8:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Jan.	10:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Jan.	17:	Counterpoise Dead Line
Jan.	17:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
Jan.	19:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Jan.	19:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Jan.	21:	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan.	24:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
Jan.	31:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz

Upcoming Event Dates

Field Day 2008, Del Mar Fair, Open House FS,
Mother Goose Parade

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The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: www.wa6bgs.org

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file may be up to 1.5 mb at times.

Change of Address

Moving?

Do not miss an issue of the Counterpoise. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call _____ WAMO# _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
New Address:
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to Membership Chairperson:
A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

ARCEC Membership Application

1. Amateur Call Sign	2. Class of License
3. First Name	4. Last Name
5. Street Address	6. City, State, Zip+4
7. Home Phone	8. Work Phone
May we list: Y N	
9. DOB	10. e-mail
11. ARRL Member Yes no	12. ARES Member Yes No
13. RACES Member Yes No	14. Sponsored by: or Family Member

Return this form with check made payable to the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon or ARCEC for new or renewal membership. Annual Dues \$18.00 for Individual, \$30.00 for family. New members add \$5.00 per member. Include your call on Check. Mail to
Membership Chairperson
A.R.C.E.C, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

New () or Renewal ()	WAMO Number
Certificate Issued	Dues from _____ To _____
Paid Cash ()	Check No.
Check ()	Date Paid:

Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

FUN PAGE

Birthdays January

January	1	N6LCH	Carl	Palechek
January	2	N6QEK	Steve	Frick
January	3	KE6IQX	Rebecca	Taylor
January	4	KI6FIF	Carl	Cookson
January	5	WA6PTZ	George	Kochel
January	5	KA6TFD	Ken	Steele
January	6	KA6BKR	Tony	Hernandez
January	6	AD6O	Jim	Quinn
January	7	KG6NNU	Bob	Nowak
January	7	WA6LNF	Edward	Redman
January	7	N6WKB	Frito	Samano (L)
January	11	KE6PW	Roger	Brown
January	13	KG6WGN	Brett	Newbould
January	18		Mona	Rios
January	19	N6ERD	Dan	Severance
January	22	KA6OTR	Al	Mercer
January	22	KG6FBV	Calvin	Tyler
January	22		Monica	Zech
January	23	KB9WFS	Brian	Churchwell
January	25	KN6CB	Doug	Konishi
January	27	KG6BWN	Nicholas	Utschig
January	29	WA6PPG	Carl	Ferree
January	29	KB6HEW	Frank	Martin
January	29	K6UMA	Joe	Mc Cormick
January	29	K6KGW	Michael	Koffler
January	30	KF6TFG	Gregg	Potter
January	31	W3NRG	Ed	Sack

Brain Thinkers

2= W. that D.'t M. a R.

2 Wrongs that Don't Make a Right

6= S. in a H. 6 Sides in a Hexagon

10= P. in C. 10 Provinces in Canada

----- This Months -----

2=S. of a L.'s T.

3= W. on a T.

435= S. in the H. of R.

Word Search "ARCEC and New Year"

C X K W E S I O P R E T N U O C
O G Z V D C J W Z U C X N T G X
U C E U O G M C K W Z W G D Z U
N N W M Z F I E L D D A Y W T G
T E G T K C D Z W X Y J W U K C
D W C K W R N O I T U L O S E R E
O Y J J Y X I T J C W C Z K N E
W E X R D Y G D H Y A G J T W V
N A C T U Z H Y T G P T Y G O I
Z R A N N E T N A H I C X D O R
G W L U K Y W E R K C L J U D D
X Z F S X D X T G R N U T K Y W
C J I E Y T J S U D I Z D O W E
P A R A D E D T K J C G J T P R
J U E Y K W P R I Z E Y X Q L S
N O I T N E V N U O C G U C J Z
X J G K G U J N O I T A C U D E

☐ ANTENNA

☐ MIDNIGHT

☐ CALFIRE

☐ NETS

☐ COUNTDOWN

☐ NEW YEAR

☐ COUNTERPOISE

☐ PARADE

☐ COUNVENTION

☐ PICNIC

☐ EDUCATION

☐ PRIZE

☐ EVENT

☐ RESOLUTION

☐ FIELD DAY

☐ SPOTLIGHT

☐ ICOM

☐ SREWDRIEVER

☐ KENWOOD

☐ YAESU

Last Months Word Search

M O C E L E B R A T I O N S G K
E W H S O P S D X W S O T O H P
M X R K D I N N E R Y K P X P Z
O P L W R Z X C Y J W S K Z W H
R K S N O W M A N Q A R S O A O
G T H X S U R W S U W X K D F
E Z M D O Q W D F D S H U W V A
S O A F W P U S A T J N F A H M
W E S G D K P K F X A Q W N D I
T K L R Z H L X G H T S O Z Q I
R U Y D F Y G W N J K U D A O V
E Z W G N S O U A G Y T R A P W
E U G Z R A G K Q Z S R Y F X U
S S E R V I C E S E O U X Q R G
Q Z G P R F R I E N D S P Q L S
P F K D O W X R U P I H S R O W
D E C O R A T E P O Q K P D V K

San Diego Section Manager Race

Hi! I'm Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ and I'd like to be your next ARRL San Diego Section Manager.

I've served as SM three times previously, and bring to the role Experience, Patience, and Understanding of both clubs and served agencies. My guide is the Amateur's Code by Paul Segal W9EEA written in 1928 which reads in part: "Offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs..." "Friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others."

As a past president of ARC of El Cajon, QCWA Chapter 14, San Diego DX Club and SANDARC Chairman, I'm well established in the Leadership of the Section and work well with all the clubs and members. I've chaired the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention twice.

I'm an active ARES member and the Emergency Coordinator for Crest. I have responded to efforts for the 2003 and 2007 Firestorms. San Diego ARES and RACES provided numerous services during and afterward, and I am proud of them as well as all the clubs and individuals in the Amateur Radio Community who pitched in during this time of need.

I balance my Ham radio activities, doing Microwaves, Homebrew, ATV, DXing (currently an ARRL DXCC Field Checker), VHF Contesting, Field Day, EMCOMM, and restoring vintage radios. I maintain the Crest Radio Museum and Library, one of the largest collections in the West.

My career in RF Engineering provides me much satisfaction and knowledge of current radio technology. My wife Voung KB6RCT, son Ben WA6BEN and I reside in Crest, east of El Cajon.

I offer you experience, stability and a cordial attitude to keep everything running efficiently and smoothly while responding to the changing culture. I want to continue moving the San Diego Section forward and ask for your vote. 73!

My name is Steve Early (AD6VI) I am running for Section Manager to support the San Diego Section's Amateur Radio Community.

In a significant personal effort to support the Amateur Radio Community and served Agencies, such as CERT and the Red Cross, I have taught many Technician Classes, three General and one Extra Classes over the last several years. I have helped over 300 students earn their licenses. I have come to recognize that many hams need the support that is often offered by the American Radio Relay League nationwide, but apparently not here. I would like the opportunity to make it happen in this Section.

At the risk of sounding proud, but intended to express my commitment to the community, some of my credentials are: Current or past member of the Mercury Amateur Radio Association (Past President), Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Ramona Outback Amateur Radio Society, South Bay Amateur Radio Society, Fallbrook Amateur Radio Club, San Diego Imperial Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross Communications Committee (Past Chairman), San Diego ARES. Delegate to (and past Board Member of) the San Diego Amateur Radio Council.

Past member of the SDIC Chapter of the American Red Cross Disaster Services Committee (two years), with first hand knowledge of the opportunities and needs for amateur radio in the local emergency response community.

President of the Palomar Amateur Radio Club (currently in fourth term), one the largest clubs (over 350 members) in the San Diego Section and in the SW Division, with Field Day attendances consistently over the 100 visitors mark.

I have a proven track record of consistently looking out for the good of the amateur radio community and supporting served Agencies.

As Section Manager, I will recruit, appoint, and supervise section-level staff to administer the Field Organization's principal areas of responsibility in the section. These include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Emergency communications,
- 2) Message traffic relay,
- 3) Technical activity / problem solving,
- 4) Volunteer monitoring,
- 5) Government relations,
- 6) Public relations in the general community,
- 7) Information services for amateurs, and
- 8) Cooperation with affiliated clubs.

Please vote for new Leadership for the San Diego Section.
Please vote for Steve Early, AD6VI.
Thanks!

**The Editor's
Corner
KC6QLS Paul**



Editor's Corner

This year I would like to see how many members download and/or receive the Counterpoise by mail. We have some members that do not have a computer or do not have internet. I will look over the data and see if we can print and send out by mail a smaller amount to save money, without losing the bulk rate at the Post Office. I looked into this some years back and the fine line of to print and mail or web and mail a small amount was too close to call.

You will find in this Counterpoise a Survey that you can cut out and bring to the next meeting, mail or email it to me.

Paul, KC6QLS

Public Relations

With a very successful Mother Goose Parade behind us and moving on to the New Year, I believe we have what it takes to promote our club. We have already started planning for the ARCEC Booth at the San Diego "Del Mar" Fair where we will do the same thing we did at the Fire Station Open House but on a larger scale, and are also planning for the next Fire Station Open House and Parade.

Cal Fire is getting their gear! Wow! It was a rough road, but it was well worth the trip. We kept walking the road until Paul K6PKS and SURF found us and paved the way for us. We will install the new gear before the next fire season and have it in place for the VIP Red Flag Patrol.

73, Paul Rios, KC6QLS

Volunteers Needed

Up Coming Events

San Diego County Fair "ARCEC Booth"

Please Sign up at the next meeting

E-Mail

Address for the Counterpoise. Please submit all *Counterpoise* Mail to:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. Please contact: Floyd Lang AF6BC at 303-6711.

Things to keep in mind

Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector

To sign up visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

Quote of the Month

"The days that are still to come are the wisest witnesses."

- Pindar Ibid. I. 51

For Amateur Radio Public Relations San Diego
Please visit
www.arprsd.org



Crest Radio Museum

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ



The Philco 60 Cathedral Radio

One of the classic radios I have always wanted is a Cathedral radio from the 1930s. This is the radio millions of people listened to FDR give his Fireside chats on and heard all the progress of the war during WW2. Once a year, SCARS (Southern Cal Antique Radio Society) holds a flea market up at the Carlsbad Holiday Inn (Where the Windmill is) and I will never miss it. There is not much Ham gear there, but always lots of wonderful old broadcast radios. There were lots of Cathedral sets there, but all at a hefty price tag too. Being greatly impoverished, I looked for a "Fixer-Upper" Boy, did I find one!!! (See the first pic). Electronically, it looked complete, but some clown (and I mean CLOWN!!!!!!) painted the beautiful walnut wood cabinet WHITE!!! Now Why would they do that??? Must have been on Drugs, all I can figure. It was absolutely Terrible, and I was able to weasle the seller down on it. One of the intricate pieces over the speaker grill was smashed, the speaker cloth all shredded and water damage warped and crumbled the side wood. What a MESS!!! But for \$50, I happily carted it off and brought it back to work to inspect the derelict.

The Philco 60 Cathedral was made around 1934, and tunes the broadcast band as well as the Then Police band that goes up to about 2 megs. Well, there's 160M! Someone had already put new caps in place of the electrolytes, so I succumbed to the acceptance the radio would not be 100% original. After careful alignment, it played wonderfully! No hum, what a great radio!! But the cabinet, UGGH!!!

I picked up a bunch of supplies at Home Depot and began the task of stripping off all the white paint. They had a paint stripper in an aerosol can which did the job nicely. However, as I sprayed it on, it went through the grill and got all over my work desk computer keyboard!!!! Oh no!! That melted all the keys and I had to make an emergency run to Frys to buy another before the BOSS found out!!! It took many hours of scraping

and such, but finally all the yeechy white paint was off. I then painted on some Miniwax Polyshades. That looked nice until I found out, looking at a website, that the radio was a 2 tone job!! All the Miniwax was stripped off and a different color was applied. Now it was 2 tone. I bought some model airplane plywood and cut it out to replace the damaged section on the side, and repair the damaged grill. It didn't match too well, but at least it wasn't all wasted. Using touch up paint, I tried to match the sections as best possible.

It was time for the Mother Goose parade, so I put it on the ARCEC Float. Hundreds of thousands of fans watching the parade saw the 1934 Cathedral. Most had no idea what it was.

Next, I ordered new matching grill cloth from Antique Radio Supply in Phoenix. This was a perfect match; same exact as the 1934 cloth. But pricey! \$25 for a 1ft square piece!! All the knobs and bezel were detailed and it looked great! And worked great too! But the power cord, a cloth covered affair, was all frayed. A new cord from ARS cost me another \$35!!! Quickly, I was up past what I would have paid for one of the "mint condition" cathedrals at the Swap meet! I had it playing on the desk here at work and the boss came in. He really liked it and told me he was buying it. "But it's NOT FOR SALE!!!!!" That didn't matter, he is the boss and if he wants my radio, I better sell it to him or look for a new job!!!! Then he complained that there was no back. Of course there was no back. Philco 60s Never had a back!!! But he demanded I "make" one and so I did, out of more of the Model Plywood, and I painted it with more Miniwax. Even put 2 little trapdoors on it so you could access the antenna and ground Fahnestock clips. So he had me calculate up what I had in it now. \$160!! He gave me \$200 and carried off is new 1934 Cathedral. Hey! I just spent a month rebuilding this and all I get is \$40 for my labor???? Well, maybe I can get another one next November when the SCARS swapmeet comes back to town.

—
Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ
Curator
Crest Radio Museum

Please See Photos on page 11

Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul

"MFJ and ARRL Considering Partnership"

Turmoil and change have shaken the ranks of our hobby in recent years. Controversy over incentive licensing, the role of the code, and concern over the dwindling ranks of our hobby have caused angst and sown the seeds of division among hams, young and old. Now, with the spring of renewal in Cycle 23 upon us, it is time for a healing catharsis for our hobby, with "Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul".

Word out of Newington, Connecticut that a Ham Radio institution, the National Association for Amateur Radio, formerly known as the American Radio Relay League, has been forced to consider wrenching change in order to survive financially. The changing landscape of a hobby beloved to over 800,000 U.S. Radio Amateurs or "Hams," has been impacted by a quickly evolving technology arena. Cellular telephone service, offering the public an inexpensive, trouble-free means of staying in touch, has taken the luster off an avocation which was once a strong draw to generations of young people attracted to the applied sciences. In an effort to survive, the ARRL joins numerous Ham manufacturers and other enterprises been forced to merge in order to remain a viable entity.

In the latest development at League headquarters, a merger of the ARRL, a 501(c) 3 corporation, is being considered by the ARRL Board of Directors with global electronics and Amateur Radio equipment manufacturing giant "MFJ Enterprises" of Starkville, Mississippi. MFJ was originally founded in 1972 by electronics mastermind Martin F. Jue K5FLU, with manufacturing and business operations based in a small rented hotel room in the old Stark Hotel in downtown Starkville, Mississippi. Today, MFJ is a global electronics manufacturing enterprise with annual revenue of \$7.5 billion dollars (US) rumored to be considering partnering with

theLeague. MFJ, once known to US Hams as a low-end supplier of bare-bones, low cost electronic components, is known to virtually all US consumers who recognize MFJ as a manufacturer of kitchen appliances, consumer electronics and automobile parts. The new enterprise, rumored to be named "MFJ-RRRL", would be a hybrid Ham organization, whose mission would include electronics manufacturing, education, advocacy on behalf of the U.S. Amateur Radio Service, magazine publishing, and the marketing of flashy, inexpensive electronic devices.

The ARRL Board, impressed with the consistency of growth, as well as the fleet-footed, responsive business track record of MFJ Enterprises, is said to be considering the merger to bring a new perspective to the management of the League. MFJ was recently the subject of an "Electronics Manufacturing Times" article entitled "Luck, Pluck, and Rebuilt Transformers". The article outlines founder Martin F. Jue's uncanny knack for spotting trends in Ham operator interests, and his bare-bones approach to satisfying those interests. In the Ham Radio hobby, Jue's marketing acumen is the stuff of legends. One of his most successful inventions was the result of a trip to the annual gathering of Radio Amateurs, the Dayton Hamvention®, where Jue overheard Hams repeatedly expressing disappointment over missed opportunities to snap up bargain-priced treasures. "I could just kick myself" was the oft-repeated remark which sparked Jue's most successful electronic invention ever – the solid state "Self Kicking Machine", a runaway best seller with Hams. MFJ's innovations have not gone unnoticed by the US military in their battle against terrorism. The "Self Kicking Machine" was an instant hit with the US Army Special Forces, who covertly marketed the device as an ordinance trigger to enemy operatives or "insurgents" in global conflicts. Once purchased by "insurgents" and transported to enemy headquarters, the devices were remotely switched to overdrive, administering what founder Jue describes as a "good old

Chicken Noodle Soup Continued

fashioned Mississippi #@%& whuppin" by remote control, to the closest enemy bystander. "As long as the batteries held up, there was no stoppin' it" remarks an obviously delighted Jue.

Innovation has long been a recognized hallmark at MFJ. Long-time Ham operators recall the firm's first marketing campaign, where Jue and his partners struggled to find a "tag line" which would be a hit with US Amateurs and at the same time, include the initials of it's founder. The requirements of the campaign to involve the three initials of the company's founder, was a non-starter. "We couldn't very well call it 'Mississippi's Finest Junk', so we struggled with what rhymed with 'J'. Then, one day, one of our employees, an electronics engineer who also happened to be an English major, came up with the idea of breaking with convention in grammar. After months of frustration, the company's motto was finally discovered and remains to this day - "Mississippi's Finest J-Equipment".

Reached for comment at the offices of MFJ Enterprises in Starkville, Jue seemed amused by reporter's questions regarding the rumored merger of MFJ and ARRL. "I'd love to be President of the League, but I couldn't afford the pay cut" joked Jue. "The concept is interesting, though. It would certainly make QST's 'New Product Reviews' more interesting". This is a subject which has not escaped consideration by the League. ARRL Technical Director Dr. Ed "Bugs" Bunny WH2ARE has reportedly completed an analysis of the MFJ product line for the ARRL Board of Directors. Bunny was heard to comment that "...given the broad product line of MFJ, and three new MFJ products reviewed per QST issue, it would take over 413 years for all MFJ products to be reviewed. And, this did not take into account the monthly new product introductions by MFJ. It is possible that a successful QST advertising campaign, with a resulting spike in sales of low-cost MFJ electronic Ham devices and accessories could conceivably quadruple the gross domestic product of the US economy".

Editor's note: Today, MFJ Enterprises, including it's four sister companies "Ameritron", "Mirage", "Vertronics" and "Hy-Gain", are a world leader in Ham Radio accessories, equipment and service. Readers can go to www.mfjenterprises.com/about.php for an interesting story on the history of MFJ Enterprises. "Chicken Noodle Soup" readers are advised to watch for future developments in the MFJ-RRL story in the pages of this publication.

Morris AZ6CW

CREST PHOTOS



Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



Happy New Year to all,

I hope all of you had a great Christmas or a wonderful holiday, and I hope that all of you got tons of great "toys". I wish every one of you a very happy healthy, and a wonderful new year.

From all I have heard, everyone had a great time at the club's Christmas party. I wish I could have been there, but the morning of the party, I came down with a cold, and I still have it.

I also want to thank all of you who have helped out with the various events we had this year and hope more of you will join us in 2008. And to your families, thank you for allowing your loved ones to help out when we needed them.

At our December meeting, Paul Schmidt, K6PKS, presented Roxanne Provaznik, Fire Prevention II, from Cal fire, Paul Rios, and I, with a check for \$2500.00 to buy new radios for CAL FIRE's VIP Red Flag Program. Thank you Paul and to all the members of your club for this generous donation.

With the new radios, we will have more bands to work with, and in case one radio goes bad, we have a back up.

New year, means new amateur radio classes; Where can you find the latest and greatest news about the clubs classes? Well, I am glad you asked. Just look on the cover of the Counterpoise, and you will find all the classes listed. Tell your friends, family and co-workers about the classes; and do not forget to tell them about our club as well.

As all of you know, I have asked all of you, when you see our brave men and women of our armed forces in their uniforms, to shake their hands and thank them for their service to our country. Well, during my Christmas shopping, I had the wonderful opportunity to do just that. I was able to shake the hands of five men in uniform and thank them for the job they are doing. And I still urge each and every one of you to do the same; PLEASE!

Lastly, sometime soon, I will be asking Roxanne Provaznik to present another Wild Land Fire Safety Training. So if any of you are wanting to become involved with the VIP Red Flag Program, please let me know, and I will sign you up.

That's all for now, but remember to SUPPORT OUR BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE U.S.A.

Rich, N6NKJ

Membership Report

Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing all of you at our meetings this year. We had a great turn out for our Christmas Party and everyone had fun. Please keep in mind that club members receive participation points for attending meetings, completing and turning in Counterpoise Puzzles at the meeting, participating in the WAMO Nets, Field Day, San Diego "Del Mar" Fair, Fire Station Open House, the Mother Goose Parade and any other club sponsored events and volunteer service. So please be sure to sign in at all events.

The roster will be updated for distribution to club members in February 2008. If anyone has any updated info, please let me know. Also, if anyone does not want to be included on the club roster, please let me know otherwise all current members will be included on the club roster for ARCEC use only.

Ann, KC6TBG



Christmas Dinner Photos



Rules for the Prize Table 2008

A prize table drawing will be held at each monthly meeting. The monthly prizes will be self-supporting and the funds for the prizes will be from donations for tickets. Prizes may also be donated. One free ticket will be given to every person signing in who requests a ticket. The tickets will be placed in a container for the monthly prizes. Additional tickets for the monthly prizes will be available for the donations of fifty cents (\$.50) each or three (3) for one dollar (\$1.00).

All prizes for the monthly drawing will be displayed before the drawing starts. Call signs or names should be written on the ticket and placed in the container and the other half shall be retained. Folded, mutilated or damaged tickets shall be discarded. Tickets will be drawn one at a time and the person possessing the matching ticket will select the prize and draw the next ticket from the container. This process will continue until all prizes are chosen. Winners must be present to win. A written report from the prize chairman will be furnished for each board meeting for accounting purposes.

PARTICIPATION POINTS CRITERIA:

Participation tickets will be given out using the following criteria: membership meeting attendance, Field Day, Club day for Special Olympics for Track and Field, Club days at the Del Mar Fair (one participation point for each shift worked), Mother Goose Parade, Club Picnic, the Christmas Party, and to those persons who bring refreshments to the general membership meetings. One point will be given for each day participated (with the exception of the Del Mar Fair). One participation point will be given for every four (4) ARCEC nets participated in to include the WAMO, PSK and Wide Open Net. One point for completing and turning in Counterpoise Puzzles at the next meeting.

A person will be appointed by the President to maintain a record so participants are accurately credited award points earned when a person works a given event. Event coordinators will be responsible to give this person the name and number of events the participant earned. One ticket will be given at the Christmas party for each point earned and placed in a container for the prize drawings.

The prizes for the Christmas Party drawing shall be approved by the membership on a yearly basis, per economic conditions. The Christmas Party drawing will be six (6) twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) cash prizes provided by the Club Treasury. Tickets will be drawn from the participation tickets only and continue until all prizes are claimed. Folded, mutilated or damaged tickets will be discarded. Winners must be present to win and only one prize per person.

A Super Drawing consisting of a prize to be determined by the Board of Directors will be awarded at the Christmas Party. The cost of the prize will be underwritten by the club. Proceeds from the ticket sales at the party itself will be used to defray the cost of the prize. Donations for the prize will be one dollar (\$1.00) per ticket or six (6) for five dollars (\$5.00) and will increase in same increments (12 for \$10.00; 18 for \$15.00; 24 for \$20.00, etc.). Folded, mutilated or damaged tickets will be discarded. Any excess monies raised by the tickets donations will be donated to the monthly prize fund. Winner must be present to win.

Home Brew Rules 2008

ATTENTION: REVISED HOME BREW RULES FOR NOVEMBER 2008 CONTEST

1. All home brew projects must be original works.
2. The Home Brew Contest will consist of four categories: Novice, Advanced, Antenna and Kit.
3. Once an item is submitted in a Home Brew Contest, it may not be re-entered in any other category or in any subsequent year.
4. Novice class would be reserved for beginners who are constructing their first project.
5. Advanced class would be for those who are experienced in the art of home brewing. It would be as complex as practicable.
6. The antenna class would consist of a transmitting antenna for any amateur frequency.
7. The kit class would be a ready made kit and will be judged based on assembly, soldering, and over all kit building ability.
8. All home brew projects must be explained by the builder and demonstrated before the general membership. All projects must function as described.
9. Each Home Brew Class will consist of first, second and third places. The winner of each class would be awarded an appropriate plaque.
10. The judging would be accomplished by three volunteers selected by the club president. Any licensed amateur radio operator and club member is illegible to be a judge. The decision of the judges is final. No sour grapes please.
11. The purpose of the Home Brew Contest is to demonstrate just one of the many capabilities of the amateur radio community.

Build and have Fun!!

Counterpoise Survey

It's that time of year again when we plan the ARCEC Budget. In reviewing the 2006 and 2007 budgets, the ARCEC has relied heavily upon donations from the Swapmeet to meet our expenses. Our current membership dues of \$18.00 per person and \$30.00 for a family essentially covers the cost of printing and mailing the Counterpoise. We need additional funds to meet our additional base expenses. The Board requests that each member take a few minutes to complete the following Survey and either call the President, email it to the President at kc6qls@cox.net or return this survey at the next meeting on January 10, 2008. This is your club and your input is needed and requested regarding the financial direction and future of our club: (Please circle or fill in)

1. Have you visited the ARCEC website? yes no
2. Have you viewed the Counterpoise on the ARCEC website? yes no
3. How do you usually receive the Counterpoise?
Counterpoise by email U.S. Mail ARCEC website
4. Would you prefer to receive the Counterpoise by?
Counterpoise by email U.S. Mail ARCEC website
5. Do you read the Counterpoise? yes no
6. Would you be willing to donate an extra \$6.00 - \$10.00 per year towards Counterpoise printing and postage costs in order to continue to receive the Counterpoise by U.S. mail? yes no
7. Would you like to continue to receive the newsletter by U.S. mail? yes no
8. What types of topics would you like to see in the Counterpoise? Please list: _____
9. What types of amateur radio related topics would you like to see presented at our monthly meetings? Please list and be specific: _____
10. Do you participate in Field Day? yes no
11. Do you participate in the ARCEC picnic? yes no
12. If you must receive the Counterpoise by US mail, you must contact the Editor with your WAMO Number to insure if we go to WEB Base only you get your copy.

This is your club and your opportunity to participate in the direction our club is going. Please return this Survey as your input is needed and appreciated. Thank you.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022



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Is your membership ready to expire?

Take a look on your mailing label. Is the expiration date in 2007? Does it say EXPIRED? That means it's time to mail in your yearly dues. Please take time to fill out the membership application in this newsletter, and mail it in, or bring it to the next meeting.

Next Class

Technician Class
January 15, 2008

General Class
March 18, 2008

Please Contact:
Mike Maston
N6OPH
(619) 296-9067

Please Visit Our Website at
www.WA6BGS.org

VEC Testing Sites

1 st Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 nd Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 rd Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 th Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5 th or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)

